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U.S. Bureau of Reclamation

Opportunities for farm ownership...Oregon-Calif.

Washington

1927

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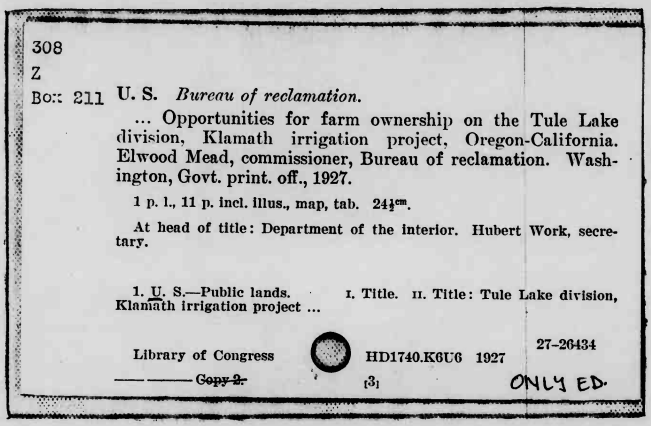

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MAY 26 1927

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HUBERT WORK, Secretary

Opportunities for Farm Ownership

on the

TULE LAKE DIVISION

Klamath Irrigation Project
Oregon-California

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Box 211

▽

ELWOOD MEAD
Commissioner, Bureau of Reclamation

UNITED STATES
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE
WASHINGTON
1927

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SECURING FARMS ON THE TULE LAKE DIVISION OF THE KLAMATH IRRIGATION PROJECT

ON March 1, 1927, 145 farms varying in size from 13.3 to 87.3 acres were thrown open to settlement in the Tule Lake division of the Klamath irrigation project. For those who desire to follow general farming combined with stock raising or dairying these farms are a real opportunity. The soil is fertile and easily worked. There is an abundant and reliable water supply.

Grain planted on drained area of Tule Lake

LOCATION

The Klamath project lies on both sides of the Oregon-California boundary in Klamath County, Oreg., and in Modoc and Siskiyou Counties, Calif. It is on the main line of the Southern Pacific Railway between San Francisco and Portland. A projected branch of the Southern Pacific from Klamath Falls, Oreg., to Alturas, Calif., will pass through the Tule Lake lands.

HOW TO APPLY FOR FARMS

Those who desire to secure one of these farms should apply to the superintendent of the Klamath project at Klamath Falls, Oreg., or to the Commissioner of the Bureau of Reclamation, Washington

38447—27

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D. C., for an application blank. When this has been filled out it should be transmitted to the superintendent at Klamath Falls, Oreg. It will be reviewed by an examining board appointed by the Secretary of the Interior to determine whether the applicant is sufficiently equipped with capital and experience to have a reasonable chance to succeed.

Applicants to qualify must have at least $2,000 in cash or part cash and the remainder in livestock, farming equipment, or other useful assets. Applicants also must have had at least two years' experience in farming and must furnish evidence of character and industry. They must be eligible also to file on land under the homestead act. The public notice of January 22, 1927, provides that those who served in the war with Germany shall have prior claim to file on these lands up to March 15, 1927, on part and until June 1, 1927, on the remainder. After these dates it is open alike to all homeseekers. All applicants must appear before the board and inspect the land before the applications are approved. This requirement will be given a liberal and reasonable interpretation by the board to avoid unnecessary expense and loss of time by the applicants. The purpose of this procedure is to help all applicants to understand what is involved in the development of these farms and what they will need in the way of capital, equipment, and experience to succeed. Doing this will save many not equipped to succeed from losing their capital and time.

Information regarding particular units or on the number that are available at any time may be secured from the superintendent of the Klamath project. Applicants should request also a copy of the public notice under which the lands are opened to entry.

FILING APPLICATION TO MAKE HOMESTEAD ENTRY

After applicants are approved by the examining board and have executed a water-rental contract and made necessary payments thereon, they are permitted to file application to make homestead entry with the register of the General Land Office for the district in which the land applied for is located. Such an official is located in Klamath Falls, Oreg., and he will accept applications referring to lands in Oregon. The register of the General Land Office at Sacramento will deal with the applications for the lands located in California. It will not be necessary for applicants to go to Sacramento, Calif., to file these applications, as the necessary oaths may be made before any official authorized by law to administer oaths, and then the applicant may transmit by mail the application to file homestead entry to the register of the General Land Office at Sacramento, Calif.

Applicants who go to Klamath Falls, Oreg., for the purpose of inspecting the land and appearing before the examining board should call on the register of the General Land Office at that place to secure all necessary information regarding filing fees and how the applications may be filed.

COST OF WATER FOR IRRIGATION

During 1927 and 1928 water will be delivered on a rental basis. A payment of $1.85 an acre in advance will entitle the water user to 2 acre-feet of water. Additional water will be furnished at the rate of 75 cents per acre-foot. Payment of both water-rental charges for 1927 and 1928 are required at time of filing water-rental application.

Desert and cultivated land

Those filing after June 15, 1927, will be required only to pay the water-rental charge ($1.85 an acre) for 1927.

The cost of water rights will be $88.35 an acre, which may be extended over a period of 40 years without interest, provided water users will organize an irrigation district and enter into a "joint liability contract" with the United States for the repayment of the reduced cost of the irrigation works. Each approved applicant must agree when executing his water-rental application to the inclusion of his land in an irrigation district.

CLIMATE, SOIL, AND CROP CONDITIONS

The annual maximum temperature varies from 95° to 100° F. The annual minimum temperature varies from a few degrees above zero to an extreme minimum of —16° F. The average mean annual

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temperature is about 47.7° F. The mean annual rainfall, over a period of 22 years, is 12.35 inches. The average precipitation from April to September, inclusive, is 3.39 inches, which makes it necessary to irrigate crops. In the spring frosts must be expected until the early part of June, and they are likely to come again in the early part of September. The elevation of the irrigable lands above sea level is about 4,100 feet.

The soil varies from a sandy loam to clay and silt loams, and both types of soil may be found on the same farm. It is alluvial in character and very productive under a proper cropping program. The soils adjacent to the old lake bed were deposited by stream action and those in the bottom of the lake were formed by lake sediment and disintegrated plant growths. The constant rise and fall of the

A flock of White Leghorns

water surface of the old lake subjected the soil to almost endless reworking by wave action, which has more or less mixed the lake-laid soils with those laid down by streams and accounts for its sandy and silty texture. This has also had the effect of making the surface of the land quite smooth and the slopes gentle, thus making the cost of preparation for irrigation simple and inexpensive.

The country is adapted to grain growing, alfalfa and other forage crops, root crops and potatoes, livestock, and dairying. It is not suited to the growing of tree fruits. Two crops of alfalfa are always secured and occasionally a small third cutting. Excellent crops of potatoes have been grown on the older portion of the project and should do well on the lands opened for settlement on the Tule Lake division. Sugar beets have been grown successfully, but it is not

practicable to grow them as an important crop until better railroad transportation is available. Everbearing strawberries and raspberries and other small fruits can be grown.

Forage crops should constitute a large part of the production of any farm in this climate, especially in the first years while the land is being brought to a high state of cultivation.

Livestock growing is favored because the project is adjacent to large open ranges and forests which furnish summer grazing to a great number of sheep and cattle. Livestock are comparatively free from diseases and there is an abundance of stock water. The proximity of immense forests and a large number of sawmills provide cheap building materials for barns and stock sheds.

Lost River Dam

Dairying is a profitable business and well suited to the district. There is a creamery at Merrill and several more at Klamath Falls and a cheese factory at Malin.

Systematic feeding of ewes and lambs, if properly handled, is successful for a period of years. A small band of sheep can be kept profitably on nearly every farm. Hogs grow rapidly on alfalfa pasture and a small amount of grain, and are finished on rolled barley. The production of eggs and chickens is not sufficient for the local market. Large amounts of these and dairy products are shipped to Klamath Falls annually. A considerable number of turkeys are raised, and with proper care turkeys should be a profitable sideline on many farms. The keeping of bees by those who understand their care may accompany the raising of alfalfa and

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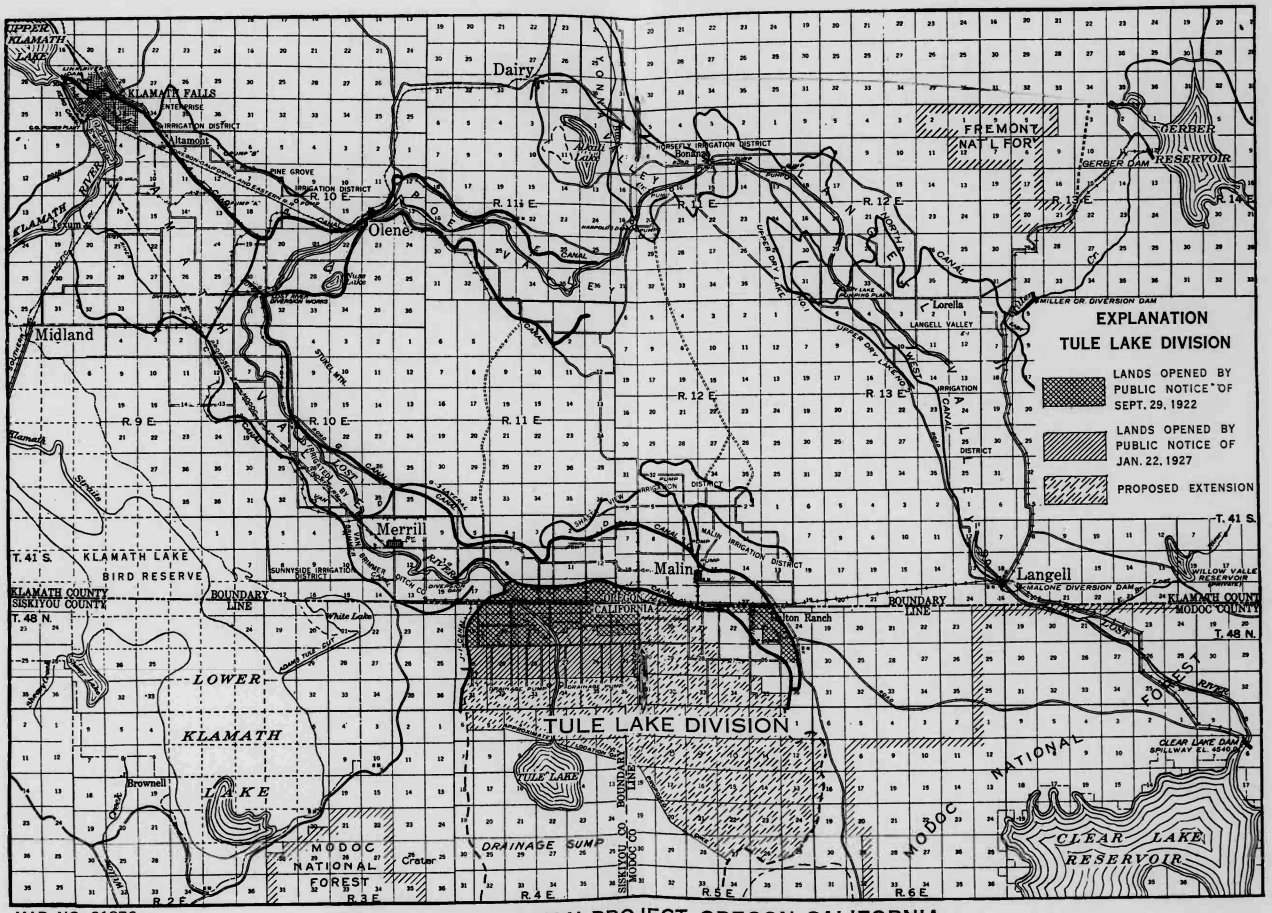

MAP NO. 21876

KLAMATH IRRIGATION PROJECT, OREGON-CALIFORNIA

sweet clover. After the project is well developed, the agricultural program should be based on the production of forage crops for feeding milch cows, sheep, hogs, and beef cattle; with potatoes, root crops, seed crops, poultry, bees, and cereals as side lines. The soil has more humus than most western soils, but more is required for high production and it is advisable to seed alfalfa or other leguminous crops as early as possible. Every new settler should have a few chickens and at least one milch cow as soon as he establishes residence, and additional cows and pigs and chickens as soon as sufficient forage is available.

To obtain the best returns from many products, it will be advisable for settlers to concentrate on a few standard varieties and institute systematic and rigid grading. This will permit shipping in car lots and probably will require cooperative marketing associations.

ROTATION OF CROPS

Yields of the various crops will be increased by farmers who will keep livestock and follow a crop rotation. The county agent of Klamath County advises a permanent rotation of crops for Tule Lake lands consisting of a legume, wheat, and potatoes. Alfalfa may be sown with a nurse crop of wheat the first year. For the succeeding four years the field would be kept in alfalfa, followed by wheat, and then potatoes. The rotation can be varied enough to give tame grass and sweet clover pastures, alfalfa for hay, wheat, barley, potatoes, and root crops.

The pasture, hay, grain, and root crops should be fed to dairy cows, sheep, hogs, and chickens, and potatoes can be the cash crop.

DOMESTIC WATER SUPPLY

Water for domestic purposes can usually be obtained by drilling to a depth of from 100 to 200 feet. Surface water for stock is easily obtainable by shallow wells. The drilling of one good well to supply domestic water for several farms offers an excellent opportunity for cooperation between neighboring settlers.

THE COST OF BUILDING MATERIALS AND EQUIPMENT

The following is a statement of the approximate cost, at Klamath Falls., Oreg., of building materials, machine equipment, and livestock which a settler is likely to need:

Common fir, per M feet b. m	$28. 00 to $30. 00
Siding, per M feet b. m	40. 00 to 45. 00
Shiplap, per M feet b. m	30. 00
No. 3 fir flooring, per M feet b. m	50. 00
Shingles, per M feet b. m	4. 50 to 5. 00
Two-ply roofing, 100 square feet	3. 00

Three-ply roofing, 100 square feet	$4. 00
Nails, 100 pounds	5. 50
Fence posts, each	. 30
Barb wire, 80-rod spool	4. 75
Staples, about 70 staples to the pound (per pound)	. 08
Chicken wire, 5 feet wide, 10-rod roll	9. 50
Chicken wire, 6 feet wide, 10-rod roll	11. 50
Farm wagon	85. 00
Disk harrow, twelve 18-inch disks, 6 feet wide	80. 00
Spring-tooth harrow, 15 teeth, 5 feet wide, 3-horse	36. 00
Spike tooth drag harrow, 50 teeth, 7 feet wide	30. 00
Walking plow, 12-inch	30. 00
Walking plow, 14-inch	32. 00
Sulkey plow, 14-inch	89. 00
Sulkey plow, 16-inch	90. 00
Gang plow, two-bottom, 12-inch	126. 00
Mowing machine, 5-foot cut	110. 00
Rake, 10 feet wide	62. 00
Cultivator, 2-horse, 6-shovel	72. 00
Cultivator, 1-horse	12. 00
Seed drill, 12 disks, 6 feet wide	169. 00
Cream separator, about 12-cow capacity	114. 00
Stacker	100. 00
Fuel most commonly used is block wood purchased at Klamath Falls, Oreg., for a load of around a cord at about	2. 50

TOWNS, INDUSTRIES, AND TRANSPORTATION

Klamath Falls, Oreg., with a population of about 10,000, is the center of a thriving lumber industry. The value of lumber and timber products shipped annually from Klamath Falls amounts to approximately $8,000,000.

The building permits of Klamath Falls in 1926 amounted to approximately $1,750,000. All kinds of supplies may be purchased from its many business establishments. Doctors, dentists, and the various other professions are represented. Merrill, Malin, and Bonanza are towns with stores, graded and high schools, and are furnished with electric energy for lighting and other purposes. These towns have daily mail and stage service from Klamath Falls. Merrill and Malin are each about 6 miles from the Tule Lake lands.

Those desiring to make the trip to Klamath Falls by automobile may do so most of the year over good roads. Klamath Falls may be reached from the north over The Dalles-California State Highway, via Bend, Oreg. The Green Springs Highway connects Klamath Falls with the Pacific Highway near Ashland, Oreg., a distance of about 60 miles. Another route from the west is to leave the Pacific Highway at Medford, parallel the Rogue River to Crater Lake National Park, and from thence to Klamath Falls. Klamath Falls may also be reached by ordinary roads from the southeast via Alturas, Calif., or from the southwest via Weed, Calif. There is

also a road following up the Klamath River connecting with the Pacific Highway near Montague, Calif.

EMPLOYMENT

Lumber mills, box factories, and camps, in or tributary to Klamath Falls, afford good opportunities for employment for those wishing to work away from their places.

SCHOOLS AND CHURCHES

Settlers or entrymen who take units in Oregon will find existing schools within 3 miles of any entry. A small school has recently

A farm home near Merrill, Oreg.

been started to serve California lands. The school building will need to be enlarged as soon as the number of children increase. Graded and high schools are located at Merrill and Malin, Oreg.

There are existing church organizations at Merrill and Malin, which are the two nearest towns to the land.

RECREATION

During the open season good hunting for ducks and geese can be found within a few miles of the lands opened to entry. Good fishing can be obtained in Klamath River and its tributaries within 40 to 75 miles of the lands opened. Crater Lake National Park is distant

about 90 miles. The lava beds are located about 10 miles to the south.

ASSISTANCE TO FARMERS

Homesteaders who make entry will be given assistance and advice in solving their agricultural and irrigation problems. The Bureau of Reclamation maintains a station at Malin, close to the lands to be opened, in addition to its main office at Klamath Falls. Settlers will find employees of the bureau cooperative. The county agri-

Beef cattle grazing in natural meadow

cultural agent, located at Klamath Falls, about 30 miles from the lands, will render all possible assistance to settlers in arranging their farm program and in assisting farmers in needed cooperative enterprises.

HOME-SEEKERS' RATES

Prospective settlers should make inquiry of the railroads concerning reduced home-seekers' rates for passenger fares and transportation of household goods and equipment to Klamath Falls, Oreg.

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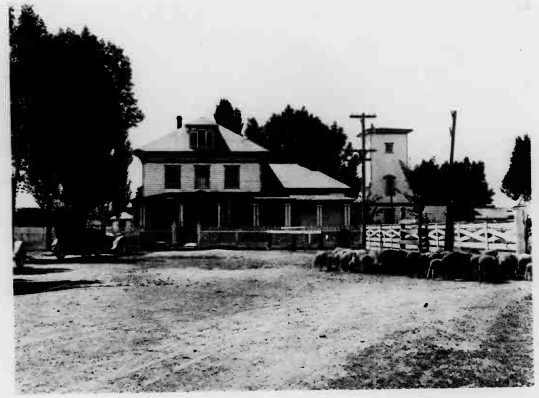

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MSH 93545

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